

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-07

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 208

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 9860

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG PFOR MASS AO UG UR

SUBJECT: ODDS AND ENDS FROM FOREIGN MINISTER UMBA

1. IN COURSE DIFFICULT, SO FAR DISCOURAGING, BUT CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS WITH UMBA ABOUT CAMBODIAN ISSUE, HE HAS TOUCHED ON NUMBER OF OTHER ISSUES AND ASKED SOME PERTINENT QUESTIONS.

2. IN DISCUSSING SOVIET POSTPONMENT OF MOBUTU VISIT TO MOSCOW, UMBA DISMISSED SOVIET EXPLANATION AS "LAUGHABLE." SAID THERE WERE VARIOUS POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS BUT DECLINED DISCUSS HIS THEORY OF REAL REASON. SAID TRIP MIGHT BE POSTPONED "FOREVER" OR...

3. UMBA SAID HE STILL HOPED FOR INDICATION FROM US THAT WE COULD MEET MILITARY REQUESTS PUT TO US BY PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND IN MOLOGYA PAPER BEFORE DEC 9. I SAID I SHARED HIS HOPE BUT THAT IT SEEMED TO ME THAT FUNDAMENTALLY COOPERATION BETWEEN ZAIRE AND THE US SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS A FUNCTION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN KINSHASA AND MOSCOW. IN THIS CONNECTION, UMBA MENTIONED BOBUTU'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF PLAN TO VISIT NORTH KOREA SOON.

4. UMBA SAID ZAIRE NOW HAS CONFIRMED KNOWLEDGE OF SAM-3'S IN UGANDA AND ASKED ME WHAT I MADE OF THAT. SINCE HE HAD TOLD ME AMIN WAS COMING FOR NOV 24 CELEBRATIONS, I SUGGESTED THAT QUESTION WAS BETTER ADDRESSED TO GENERAL AMIN THAN TO ME. UMBA
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SPECULATED SOVIETS WERE INCREASINGLY FUNNELING ARMS

SUPPORT TO MPLA THROUGH UGANDA. (RADIO HAS JUST ANNOUNCED AMIN'S VISIT CANCELLED.)

5. AT ONE POINT UMBA GAVE ME YET ANOTHER VERSION, THE MOST FANCIFUL ONE SO FAR, OF HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER LAST AUGUST. THIS TIME HE ALLEGES SECRETARY EXPLAINED HE COULD ONLY CONCENTRATE ON AFRICA WHEN CRISIS SITUATION AROSE. UMBA SEEMED TO BE SUGGESTING THAT IF PERHAPS CRISES WERE PROVOKED, US GOVT WOULD RESPOND TO REQUESTS FOR MILITARY COOPERATION AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. REFERENCE TO ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE CAME WHEN HE WAS MAKING INVIDIOUS COMPARISONS BETWEEN OUR PROGRAMS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND ZAIRE.

6. COMMENT: I WOULD SICOUNT MOST OF ABOVE, EXCEPT AS PARTLY INDICATIVE OF MAN AND AS EVIDENCE THAT EARLY REPLY ON MILITARY MATTERS COULD IMPROVE ATMOSPHERE HERE. I WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING IF THERE IS ANY CONFIRMATION OF REPORT THAT SAM-3'S OR OTHER SAM'S ARE IN UGANDA. HINTON

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